IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

GAHAN, R. et al.   Atty. Ref.: 922-151

Serial No. unknown   Group:

Filed: January 17, 2002   Examiner:

For: NETWORK AREA STORAGE BLOCK AND FILE AGGREGATION

*   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *

January 17, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for

examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims

previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is

attached.

3.   A storage area network according to claim 1 in which the functional unit

provides a pointer to an application buffer and data from the remote storage server is

placed directly into the application buffers from received transport protocol data units.
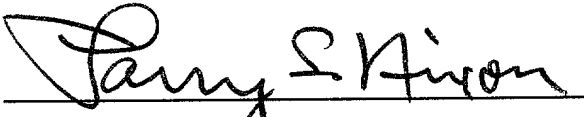
6.   A method according to claim 4 in which each file is given a device

identifier and the block level aggregator process has a total logical block to device

identifier and block mapping database and a device mapping database with pointers to the

record of block locations.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned **"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

3.   A storage area network according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ in which the functional unit provides a pointer to an application buffer and data from the remote storage server is placed directly into the application buffers from received transport protocol data units.

6.   A method according to claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~ in which each file is given a device identifier and the block level aggregator process has a total logical block to device identifier and block mapping database and a device mapping database with pointers to the record of block locations.

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